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**Environment Department, Molycorp and Questa Mayor Supply the First of More than 100
Energy-Efficient, EPA-Approved Wood Burning Stoves to Questa Residents**

(Questa, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry, Molycorp officials and Questa Village Mayor Charlie Gonzales distributed on Monday the first 11 of more than 100 new energy-efficient and low-emission wood-burning stoves to Questa Village residents.

Questa Village officials are distributing the stoves to qualified low-income, elderly and disabled Questa villagers as part of a settlement between NMED and Molycorp over a self-reported violation for not operating four air scrubbers for various periods over the last six years.

NMED agreed to allow Molycorp to distribute 110 stoves to village residents as a way to increase village air quality by reducing particulate emissions from old wood-burning stoves, which can create winter haze and pose health and breathing problems for sensitive individuals.

"This exemplifies how the Environment Department, a large company and a community, working together, can benefit the people in that community," Secretary Curry said.

Large and small stove sizes are available that will heat approximately 1,500 square-feet and 1,000 square feet, respectively. The stoves meet U.S. EPA requirements for Phase II efficiency and emissions reductions.

"This is a win-win for the NMED, Molycorp and the people of Questa," Secretary Curry said. "With energy bills predicted to sky rocket this winter, more efficient wood stoves that put out less air pollution will make everybody's lives a little bit more comfortable this winter."

On hand to participate in the presentation and distribution of the first stoves was state Sen. Carlos Cisneros (D-Taos), who praised the settlement.

"This is the first time, to my knowledge, that anything of this magnitude has occurred in the state," he said.

"Molycorp's partnership with the Village of Questa is very important to us," Mayor Gonzales said. "We look forward to implementing this program for the benefit of our citizens."

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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